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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/69/91-E/2014/84, A/69/279 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)

1. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/69/279), said that the first section of the report examined progress in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and providing access to food. Statistics provided in the report indicated that if appropriate efforts were stepped up immediately, the hunger target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — to reduce by half the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries by 2015 — was in reach.

2. Despite overall progress, large disparities remained among developing regions. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia had already achieved the MDG hunger target, as had Latin America and the Caribbean. The Caucasus and Central Asia were on track to reach the target by 2015. However, sub-Saharan Africa and Southern and Western Asia had registered insufficient progress. More than one quarter of the world's undernourished people lived in sub-Saharan Africa, where there had been an increase of 38 million hungry people since 1990-1992.

3. The report recalled that in focusing exclusively on kilocalories and underweight, the target did not capture the various dimensions of undernutrition, particularly stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies. Global initiatives to increase cooperation in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and provide access to food, such as the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, played an important role.

4. One way to sustainably increase agricultural productivity in order to avert future food crises was to increase support to smallholder farmers. The report highlighted the International Year of Family Farming, launched in November 2013, which had included regional discussions incorporating the policy recommendations of smallholder farmers. In addition, a new programme, proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme, aimed to promote sustainable food systems. The report also provided an update on progress in addressing the role of international food markets in food security.

5. **Mr. Mollinedo Claros** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern at developing countries' vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change and food security threats. Despite the progress achieved, a total of 805 million people were chronically undernourished. In developing countries, the prevalence rate of undernourishment remained at 13.5 per cent.

6. The urgent need for a people-centred approach to agricultural development, food insecurity and nutrition had been further accentuated by current challenges. Increasing agricultural production to meet the nutritional needs of a growing world population sustainably was central to ensuring poverty eradication.

7. Hunger was a violation of human dignity. Everyone had the right to access to safe and nutritious food, in order to develop and maintain their full physical and mental capacities. Achieving food security would require strengthening the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of indigenous peoples, rural communities, small-scale farmers and fishermen; the provision of technical and financial assistance; access to and transfer of technology; and capacity-building. Small-scale and family farmers played a positive role in conservation and sustainable seed use. People's nutrition should be safeguarded and enhanced through the promotion of productive, cultural and environmental practices. The Group of 77 and China demanded sustained funding and an increase in targeted investments to enhance world food production and called for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security.

8. The Group of 77 and China further emphasized the need to strengthen the agricultural sector as part of the efforts to accelerate achievement of the MDGs by 2015, in particular the hunger target. Continued deliberations on agriculture development, food security and nutrition were important in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Subsidies and other market distortions driven by developed countries had seriously affected the agricultural sector of developing countries, limiting the ability of the sector to contribute

significantly to poverty eradication; sustained, inclusive economic growth; and equitable, sustainable development, food security and rural development. All forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries that were not in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules should be eliminated immediately. Developed countries should show flexibility and the political will to address the fundamental concerns of developing countries in the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Elimination of such subsidies was a fundamental part of the global effort to promote agriculture and rural development and eradicate poverty and hunger. Finally, public financing and transfer of technology by developed countries were needed, not only for the adoption of sustainable agriculture, but also for the establishment of the required infrastructure, communications and other enabling conditions.

9. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that activities in the areas of agriculture development, food security and nutrition were critical to create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for women and young people, to sustain livelihoods and to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases. Such activities were therefore of strategic importance to the continued stability, security and sustainable development of the Caribbean region. Despite tireless efforts, the region's high exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters, the need to adapt to climate change, and difficulties in exploiting economies of scale owing to small population size presented persistent challenges. In the framework of its common agricultural policy, CARICOM had therefore worked to address the region's most critical constraints to enhancing production and productivity by modernizing and reorienting the role and function of agriculture in society.

10. A thirteenth annual week of events related to agriculture in the region had recently concluded in Suriname. It had focused on the relevance and urgency of family farming to efforts to address the specific constraints on agriculture in the region. CARICOM had a food and nutrition security policy that recognized the multidimensional and multisectoral nature of food and nutrition security and the need for simultaneous, holistic and concerted action on a broad front, encompassing, inter alia, production, food processing and distribution, health and nutrition, trade, infrastructure, social welfare, education and the information and communication sectors.

11. Given the constraints that CARICOM faced with respect to agriculture development, food security and nutrition, greater support for regional initiatives was needed to rapidly bring about benefits for primary producers, such as those involved in farming and fishing in small island developing States. The region looked forward to increased collaboration with the (FAO to ensure that food production, processing and marketing, food safety and public health systems were capable of providing safe, nutritious and affordable food for consumers at all times. In that regard, the States members of CARICOM anticipated the early implementation of all relevant initiatives contained in the Samoa Pathway and noted in particular the call for a meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges.

12. The member States of CARICOM welcomed the consideration given to agriculture development, food security and nutrition in various forums. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals specifically included several pertinent goals and targets, notably goal 2 on hunger and goal 15 on the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

13. **Mr. Phansourivong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that although the agriculture sector had been an engine for strong economic growth and development in ASEAN countries and was a vital source of global food security, the region continued to face challenges related to malnutrition and hunger, owing to natural resource scarcity, shocks from food price volatility and the effects of climate change.

14. In order to improve agricultural productivity, food and nutrition insecurity must be addressed sustainably by augmenting investment and improving technology in the agricultural sector. Investment in infrastructure, such as roads, irrigation, communication systems and agriculture-related services, especially for smallholder farmers, was vital to enhancing agricultural productivity. It was also important to increase agricultural production and productivity in

order to meet the nutritional needs of a growing world population, particularly in developing countries.

15. Production shortfalls, price volatility and trade distortions remained threats to global food security. Providing and strengthening global market access for agricultural and other products from developing countries could help to stabilize food prices. In that regard, it was important to successfully conclude the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which should ensure a fair agricultural market and a mechanism to correct market distortions, including domestic support and export subsidies. The elimination of such subsidies was fundamental to the global effort to promote agriculture development and poverty eradication.

16. ASEAN had established the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and its attendant Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region and the ASEAN-Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve to help States members of ASEAN when the need arose. The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry had recently approved the revised ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the new Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security for 2015 to 2020, which incorporated a new component on nutrition. ASEAN welcomed the recent adoption of a General Assembly resolution on the International Year of Soils and World Soil Day.

17. **Mr. Tupouniua** (Tonga), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that the importance of agriculture development, food security and nutrition could not be overemphasized. Malnutrition, the pervasiveness of non-communicable diseases resulting from limited access to nutritious food, and overconsumption of non-nutritious food required attention, as did the right to adequate food and nutrition for all. Food wastage through the food supply chain must be drastically reduced.

18. Due to the small land mass of many Pacific countries and their extreme vulnerability to natural disasters and external shocks, agriculture barely existed in some of the islands, and there was heavy reliance on food importation. Such imported food was not always very nutritious, leading to non-communicable diseases and high costs for national health care resources. The marine environment played an important role in food security and nutrition for the Pacific small island developing States, and revenues generated from it represented a significant portion of national budgets.

19. There could be no food security for any of the small island developing States without sustainable fisheries, which were as important as sustainable agriculture to their food security, nutrition and survival. Oceans were also a critical source of work, food, livelihood and culture. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), States Members of the United Nations had stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. That focus underlay the work of the Pacific small island developing States in championing a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas.

20. The Pacific small island developing States noted with particular interest those parts of the Secretary-General's report (A/69/279) that highlighted the significant challenges that climate change would bring for food security. Indeed, climate change was the gravest threat to the sustainable livelihoods, well-being, viability, security and sovereignty of small island developing States. Without progress on addressing climate change impacts and challenges there could be no sustainable development.

21. National Government ownership and leadership complemented by public-private partnership were key to any sustainable effort to enhance food production, improve access to food, scale up social protection systems and implement community-based adaptation programmes that built resilience against climate hazards and improved disaster preparedness and response.

22. The Pacific small island developing States supported climate-smart agriculture for food security, nutrition and resilience-building. Agriculture science education should receive appropriate support, especially in developing countries. Climate change adaptation strategies relevant to food security and nutrition should be mainstreamed into all aquaculture and fisheries policies and actions and should be linked to climate and weather research. Development partners should continue to work together with small island developing States, guided by the terms of the latter, during the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the post-2015 development framework.

23. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that one person in eight suffered from hunger, and 33 countries were in urgent need of assistance owing to exorbitant food prices. Food insecurity challenges included high prices and harvest losses owing to climate change factors and desertification, issues which were of great concern to the Arab Group.

24. Reaffirming the right of each individual to adequate, nutritionally balanced food, he stressed the need to strengthen food security for current and future generations, especially in developing countries. Food security must be embedded in the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. The Arab Group welcomed global, coordinated efforts to tackle food insecurity and transfer agricultural technology and urged States to facilitate market access for farmers in developing countries.

25. All the Arab countries had arid lands, owing to drought and desertification. The Arab countries consumed more than 40 per cent of the world's cereal and were experiencing serious water shortages. They were therefore very motivated to tackle the issue.

26. The subsidy-related issues facing small farmers in developing countries should be reviewed. The international community must increase investment in agriculture to help developing countries, especially those that were net food importers.

27. **Mr. Beviglia Zampetti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union remained committed to the global effort to tackle hunger and malnutrition and to translate its commitment into action, including by supporting the Zero Hunger Challenge.

28. European Union policies strongly promoted the multiplier role of the agricultural sector and the contributions that all actors could make, as reflected in the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and continued support for the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) and Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience (SHARE).

29. Local, regional and international markets for agricultural products, including cash crops, provided a vital source of income for rural populations. The development of food value chains could help millions to share in economic growth. In the recently adopted Malabo Declaration of the African Union, States members had recommitted to agricultural development and resolved to triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025. Increased public and private investments in agriculture and food systems were needed, as was enhanced access to sustainable financial services for agricultural finance, including agricultural insurance.

30. Excessive price volatility could have devastating effects, especially for the poor and vulnerable. The European Union thus continued to support market transparency and stability, particularly through the Agricultural Market Information System and the Platform for Agriculture Risk Management. It also promoted sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems, by helping developing countries to boost and diversify their agricultural production and productivity, including through sustainable natural resource management practices and investment in research. Agricultural development and land management that were environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and climate-resilient had important mitigation potential. Enhancing water efficiency in agriculture and protecting water resources were priorities, as was addressing food loss and waste.

31. The European Union also continued to invest in adequate and balanced nutrition, in particular for pregnant women and young children. Wasting and stunting must be tackled during humanitarian crises as well as through longer-term programmes, with nutrition objectives incorporated in such areas as food security, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and education. The European Union remained committed to support countries in reducing by 2025 the number of children under five who were stunted by at least 7 million.

32. Equal access to and control over land were crucial, including women's equal right to inheritance. All countries should apply the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. States Members of the United Nations were also encouraged to put into practice the Principles of Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

33. **Mr. Gonçalves** (Brazil) said that while the number of people suffering from chronic hunger was down and the relevant MDG target would be nearly achieved by 2015, close to 840 million people worldwide were still undernourished, of whom 99 million were children under the age of 5, and 33 countries still relied on assistance for food. At the same time, modern lifestyles and access to low-cost, non-nutritious food had caused obesity and related diseases to skyrocket in developed and developing countries alike.

34. The new, ambitious targets for ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030 presented significant challenges. Foremost among them was that of producing enough food to feed the world. Given a projected population of 9 billion by 2050, considerable productivity gains would be needed. Meeting the targets would involve achieving a development-oriented outcome to the Doha Round that would allow developing countries increased access to world agricultural markets.

35. Significant investment in research, rural infrastructure and agricultural extension was needed to increase productivity. New plant varieties must be developed to resist the effects of climate change, and the issue of genetically modified organisms must be adequately addressed. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, a government body, had achieved success in developing plant and animal varieties that could adapt to the various climates that existed in Brazil, enabling Brazil to improve its agricultural production significantly, with negligible increases in planted area. Such work could be replicated in other countries. The Research Corporation had a long history of providing South-South cooperation, especially in Africa, to promote increased yields and improve food security.

36. Small farmers had a crucial role to play. In Brazil, public school meals were sourced from local producers, generating demand for local produce and economic activity in remote areas and promoting improved nutrition and food security for schoolchildren. Other programmes that focused on family farming involved access to income transfers, technical and rural extension support, crop insurance and access to credit and price guarantee instruments. A national land reform programme offered parcels of government-owned or unproductive lands to those without access to land.

37. As a direct result of increased spending on food security and social programmes, the percentage of Brazilians living in extreme poverty had dropped from 14 per cent to 3.5 per cent between 2001 and 2002, removing Brazil from the FAO World Hunger Map. Given that there were some 500 million agricultural family plots in the world, investing in smallholders could have very powerful effects.

38. **Ms. Lilianne** (Israel) said that while the Millennium Goal of reducing by more than half the number of people living in poverty had been achieved, the number of people who were undernourished had declined by only 7.3 per cent during the same period. Worldwide, 842 million people continued to suffer from chronic hunger. A new approach to hunger eradication was needed. The original MDG target did not go far enough in addressing core issues. Low productivity and inability to cope with crop failures and climate change still prevailed.

39. It was particularly important to improve the productivity levels, adaptability and resilience of smallholder farmers, who were responsible for at least 56 per cent of all global agricultural production and 80 per cent of all agricultural production in Africa. Smallholder farmers would be the main source of the 60 per cent increase in food production needed to feed the world population in 2050.

40. However, most smallholder farmers, especially those in developing countries, had difficulty increasing their agricultural output beyond subsistence level, largely because they lacked credit, technical support and land tenure. They relied instead on traditional labour-intensive, low-productivity agricultural methods and also had to pay to cultivate their land. Most smallholder farmers did not have the knowledge and techniques that would maximize their yields and incomes.

41. Most smallholder agriculture enterprises were also run by women, who had particular difficulty in moving beyond subsistence farming. Although they provided most agricultural labour, their contributions remained for the most part invisible. Crop sales were overwhelmingly handled by men, hindering women's access to income, credit, land tenure and leadership positions. It was therefore necessary to do more than merely increase smallholder productivity. The voluntary guidelines endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012 offered valuable guidance

on how to advance women's participation in every area of agricultural production, not just sowing and harvesting.

42. To avert future food crises, agricultural productivity must be increased sustainably, and in ways that were resilient. Unsustainable methods for increasing food production had already led to degradation of land and water sources and the deterioration of related ecosystems essential to maintaining a healthy climate. Smallholder farmers must be empowered to engage in sustainable natural resource management, particularly given the perils of shifts in global demography and economic instability. That would benefit women and other disadvantaged groups and spur progress in hunger eradication and food security.

43. Israel had vast experience in sustainably maximizing agricultural productivity. Over the previous 25 years, agricultural output in Israel had increased by a factor of seven with only a slight increase in water consumption, despite the dry climate. In fact, Israel currently grew more than 40 per cent of its vegetables and field crops in the desert. A dynamic entrepreneurial spirit had allowed Israelis to become active agents of progress rather than passive victims of chance. Israel thus encouraged smallholder farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs. If they prospered, they would be able to invest in qualitative expansion of their enterprises, providing the global community with greater certainty of supply and improved produce quality.

44. The Israeli agency for international development cooperation, known by its Hebrew acronym, MASHAV, was active in development efforts in Africa, transferring knowledge, technology and approaches to many partners throughout the continent. Projects involving improved seedlings, techniques to raise yields, irrigation technologies, practices to preserve natural resources, and post-harvest technology were carried out in partnership with developing and developed countries, the United Nations system, and civil society. MASHAV would host a regional agribusiness workshop in December 2014 to empower rural women, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The workshop would expose participants to the various aspects of planning, development and management of small agricultural businesses, with a focus on adaptability of methods and technologies to meet local conditions in each participant's country.

45. **Ms. Auearerrchit** (Thailand) said that while progress on achieving the MDG target of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 should be accelerated, the international community must renew efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition by ensuring that food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture remained high on the post-2015 agenda. In that regard, her delegation was pleased that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained a goal to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".

46. Thailand had launched a strategic framework for food management for the period 2012-2016 consisting of four strategies, namely food security, food quality and safety, food education and systems management. It employed an agricultural zoning policy for large-scale farmers, providing recommendations and scientific information on soil, crop types, livestock and fishery that were appropriate for specific areas, in order to strengthen farmers' capacities to produce safe agricultural foods and products of premium quality. Thailand also applied the philosophy of sufficiency economy for smallholder farmers, involving an emphasis on proper land and water management for optimum benefits, thus allowing both large and small farmers to reduce expenditures and chemical use, and eventually leading to food security in rural areas.

47. Although Thailand had already halved the proportion of people living in hunger, the country faced the double burden of malnutrition, with both undernutrition and overnutrition found among the children of Thailand. There was therefore a strong emphasis on educating the public about proper dietary requirements and nutrition.

48. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhor, who was the World Food Programme (WFP) Special Ambassador for School Feeding, had established a school lunch programme in remote areas to help underfunded schools provide nutritious food through agricultural projects, such as growing vegetables and raising fish, poultry and other types of animals on school grounds. Recently a project had been launched to improve students' dietary habits, school sanitation and health management.

49. Healthy and fertile soil was essential to agricultural productivity, food security and sustainable agriculture. Her delegation therefore welcomed the decision to declare 2015 the International Year of Soils and 5 December World Soil Day.

50. Thailand called for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures that were not in compliance with WTO rules and the Bali Package. Distorting trade measures could seriously harm the agricultural sector of developing countries, limiting the sector's ability to contribute significantly to the eradication of poverty and to sustained inclusive economic growth, food security and sustainable development.

51. At the regional level, Thailand supported the ASEAN-Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve, the first functioning regional rice reserve mechanism in the world, which ensured food security during emergencies and crises, and the ASEAN Food Security Information System, which served to inform policy decisions on food security in the region. At the international level, Thailand, which hosted the FAO and WFP regional offices for the Asia-Pacific region and was a member of the FAO Council, collaborated closely with both organizations and wished to enhance partnership with other relevant bodies to ensure and promote food security.

52. **Mr. Mawe** (Ireland) said that food insecurity and malnutrition manifested themselves in various ways throughout the world and had many complex and interdependent underlying causes. Drought, conflict and high food prices would continue to have an impact on food security and access to adequate and nutritious food. Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition required a twin-track approach, with interventions and strong policies from the local to the global levels. Short-term relief must be situated within a longer-term strategy to reduce vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity.

53. In 2013, Ireland had directed 20 per cent of its national aid budget to hunger-related activities, demonstrating its deep commitment to the fight against hunger and undernutrition. All of Ireland's activities related to hunger emphasized nutritional quality.

54. Ireland worked to boost the agricultural productivity of poor smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly women. Its work also targeted undernutrition in infants, children and mothers and promoted governance and leadership to reduce hunger worldwide. Smallholder farmers, especially women, must be at the centre of any sustainable solution to world hunger. Support to smallholder farmers would be most effective as part of a value chain approach. There should be support for pro-poor agricultural research, which in turn should be accessible to poor smallholder farmers, especially women.

55. Access to credit and farm inputs must be improved, to enable smallholder farmers to benefit from new technologies and practices, and there should be support for climate-smart agricultural practices. Links between smallholder farmers and the private sector should be encouraged, so that they would have access to inputs and links to viable markets to trade surplus produce.

56. Aid partners should be wary of focusing exclusively on increasing agricultural productivity and on simple food security measures. Increases in agricultural productivity frequently failed to translate into improved nutritional outcomes at the household level. The goal must remain the improved health and nutrition of the very poorest. Comprehensive initiatives such as Scaling Up Nutrition, which Ireland actively supported, had real potential to reduce undernutrition. The increased political commitment to tackling undernutrition across 54 high-burden countries was a significant achievement. Ireland encouraged all stakeholders in the relevant sectors to champion the integration of nutrition into all of their food security activities in order to attain nutrition security for all.

57. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that one person in eight remained chronically undernourished, and that lack of proper nutrition was the underlying cause of approximately 45 per cent of all deaths among children under five years of age worldwide. Some countries needed external assistance for food owing to internal conflict, crop failures, climactic conditions and high domestic food prices, or a combination thereof.

58. Sri Lankans had been among the first people in the world to manage water resources comprehensively by building complex reservoirs and canals to store and conduct water for irrigation and human consumption. Giant reservoirs in the dry zone of the country were still the lifeblood of its agriculture and supported a self-sufficient food production system.

59. In Sri Lanka, 29.7 per cent of the labour force was still employed in agriculture. Government

fertilizer subsidies had substantially contributed to increased outputs. A pension scheme, crop insurance mechanisms and compensation for crop destruction had ensured security for farmers.

60. With the advent of peace in 2009, new opportunities had been provided to the fishing industry in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka, and the fisheries industry had continued to boom. The Global Food Security Index for 2013 placed Sri Lanka in sixtieth place among 107 countries. In March 2014, Sri Lanka had delivered the first part of a donation of 50,000 metric tons of rice to WFP, furthering its commitment to support international hunger eradication efforts.

61. In 1986, his Government had developed a national nutrition policy. A programme developed in 1973 provided a food supplement containing proteins and all other required micronutrients to pregnant and lactating women, infants and children from 12 to 59 months. Another programme aimed to provide a glass of milk and a school meal to children from low-income families. Dairy products for infants were completely tax-exempt, in order to ensure that infants received the required nutrition. Growth promotion and monitoring programmes conducted by the Ministry of Health had been instrumental in improving nutritional status and addressing child malnutrition. A community-based intervention aimed to make Sri Lanka free of poverty by 2016 by improving the economic levels of 700,000 families and ensuring food security through home gardening and consumption of homegrown vegetables, milk and eggs.

62. **Mr. Rimouche** (Algeria) said that food security was inseparable from the issues of human rights, dignity and humanity. The number of people suffering from hunger and chronic malnutrition was shockingly high. While many countries were still in need of food assistance, countries must learn to become self-sufficient in matters of food security.

63. Agricultural development did much to reduce hunger and malnutrition and had created jobs, particularly in poor countries. Hunger reduction and food security depended on the extent to which agriculture development could become the main instrument of a dynamic, balanced revitalization of rural areas. Water was central to all agricultural production, and water shortages were a major source of insecurity for hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Conditions must be created through public and private investment to support rural populations, especially young people. Infrastructure modernization and projects to improve natural resources were necessary and could provide livelihoods.

64. Efforts to reduce food insecurity had achieved uneven progress. According to FAO data, the number of people in Africa suffering from hunger had increased to 239 million between 1990 and 2012. Very few African countries had sufficient resources to respond to the situation while also meeting their long-term development needs, and many were heavily dependent on official development assistance (ODA).

65. Agricultural growth must be sustainable and preserve biodiversity and conserve water, land and fish stocks. Prevention of recurrent food crises required international food security governance.

66. In Algeria, self-sufficiency in food security was a public policy goal and was considered a national sovereignty issue. The Government had raised nearly US$13.7 billion for an agricultural renewal and food security policy for the period 2009-2014 to encourage private investment in order to strengthen food security and make sustainable improvements for the rural population. Government-supported food security measures included updating production infrastructure, boosting production of food staples, diversifying agricultural production, improving living conditions and income for people in rural areas, adopting technological advancements by farmers, promoting stable agricultural markets and strengthening human capacities and technical assistance. Algeria also contributed to other countries' food security through FAO-led initiatives.

67. **Mr. Al Jassar** (Kuwait) said that Kuwait continued to support developing and least developed countries to help them achieve food security. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, established in 1961, had received $18 billion in contributions and supported 931 projects benefiting more than 100 States. The Fund had spent more than $2 billion on projects to support agricultural development, fight hunger and support the MDGs and the sustainable development goals. In 2013, Kuwait had hosted the Third Africa-Arab Summit, at which food insecurity had been a priority.

68. The negative impacts of climate change hampered developing countries working to achieve

sustainable agricultural development and also threatened the existence of small island developing States. Qatar had recently enacted a law on environmental protection, including protection of the atmosphere and the marine environment. The international community must scale up efforts to mitigate climate change impacts.

69. **Mr. Chandra** (Indonesia) expressed concern with regard to the prognosis of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research that, owing to complex and persistent structural problems, the strongest hunger reduction measures would still leave 600 million people suffering from chronic hunger in the developing world. New, revolutionary methods were required to achieve food security and end hunger, including new partnerships across sectors, strengthening of the relevant food and nutrition research, and transfer of new technologies, including improvements to agricultural and nutrition infrastructure. Lack of political commitment was holding back progress.

70. Given the increasingly limited amount of arable land and the conversion of agricultural lands for other purposes, the new Government of Indonesia was emphasizing the need to mainstream marine, fishery and other ocean-related issues to achieve sustainable food security for all, while trying to improve the living conditions of smallholder fisher-folk in the archipelago.

71. International cooperation would be required to resolve structural challenges in the development of agriculture and fisheries products, along with protection of biodiversity and strategic food sources to enhance food market opportunities, added value and utilities. Appropriate and affordable technologies to increase agricultural production and capacity were needed to increase exports of agricultural goods, particularly those produced by smallholder farmers. It was also important to establish stable, secure and safe markets to enable a sustainable and resilient food system and minimize the impact of excessive price volatility. The relevant sectors required effective investment and innovation. In that context, Indonesia also attached great importance to appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

72. Indonesia was doing its utmost to reduce stunting and malnutrition, both still significant problems in the country. A joint intergovernmental task force had been established to overcome the challenges through multisectoral programmes. Indonesia looked forward to the second International Conference on Nutrition, which would be hosted jointly by FAO and the World Health Organization in Rome in November.

73. **Ms. El Midaoui** (Morocco) said that statistical data showed that the number of people living in extreme poverty would not be halved by the end of 2015. There were food crises in West Africa, and the Horn of Africa and the Sahel suffered from recurring drought, which had led to some of the worse food crises in recent history.

74. Morocco, a net importer of food, had reformed its agricultural policy, restructuring the sector and redefining its missions and targets. A plan put in place in 2002 had led to significant progress in the production of food staples, which in turn had reduced food imports. Given the importance of family farming, in which more than 40 per cent of the workforce was employed, the new policy aimed to improve agricultural productivity and make it a sector with high added value, which would improve the living conditions of smallholders. The policy focused on rural women, with projects involving olive groves, argan trees and saffron. Support and training was being provided to rural women, with the assistance of women's cooperatives. In 2012, Morocco had hosted an international conference on rural women at which agreements concerning the advancement and empowerment of rural women had been signed with various ministries, the Multi-country Office of UN-Women in Rabat and the Office of FAO in Morocco.

75. Morocco had a nutrition policy for the current decade designed to mainstream nutrition in national policy and to coordinate nutrition-related measures to improve public health. The country's efforts to eradicate poverty, empower smallholder farmers, strengthen the capacity of the public to adapt to climate change and reduce loss and waste of foodstuff had been recognized by FAO.

76. South-South and triangular cooperation were foreign policy priorities for Morocco, particularly in Africa and the Arab world. It had strengthened cooperation on food security with other developing countries and had shared its know-how and experience, as indicated by the projects it had initiated in various countries on modern irrigation techniques, soil and

water management, artificial rain and combating locusts.

77. Following the establishment of a strategic food security partnership with FAO, Morocco had signed several tripartite agreements with FAO and third countries in Africa. In September 2014, Morocco had hosted the ninth regular session of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean. During that conference, Morocco had reiterated its commitment to share its experience on fisheries management and suggested developing regional cooperation programmes on sustainable fisheries management. In 2013, Morocco had organized a regional awareness-raising workshop in cooperation with FAO on Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Morocco had exerted tremendous efforts to develop small-scale fishing, stressing the human element, to improve working conditions and income for marine fisher-folk.

78. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that millions of people suffered from food insecurity, a critical situation that was made worse when natural disasters struck. International efforts to tackle malnutrition and poverty and address the challenges of unstable markets and environmental and climate change pressures were crucial. Boosting agricultural output by sustainably helping small farmers would help to eliminate hunger and protect the right of each individual to sufficient food. It was also necessary to address the problem of waste.

79. Empowering women, local communities and smallholder farmers to help them gain access to technology, build capacity and share experience were ways of addressing food-related challenges. The Doha Round should be concluded in order to open access to new markets for developing countries. Global financial and economic reforms were needed to put an end to the problems of developing countries in the agricultural sector, among others. Agricultural practices must be sustainable and sound in order to protect lives.

80. The Constitution of Qatar attached particular importance to climate change and food security. The Government had consistently reaffirmed the importance of agriculture and food security and their links to water, health, poverty, climate and energy, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development framework. Agriculture was central to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Developing countries needed help implementing policies on land degradation and desertification. Qatar had created a global partnership to combat desertification and protect the environment so as to reduce the impact of climate change, water scarcity and drought.

81. The Government of Qatar was convinced of the need to ensure the right to nutrition for all citizens and would make every effort to strengthen access to that fundamental right and free people from hunger. Women, children, the elderly and local communities must all be guaranteed nutrition. Efforts to support sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity must also take into account national development policies.

82. **Mr. Emvula** (Namibia) said that the majority of people in Namibia lived in rural areas, where livelihoods were primarily dependent on agriculture. Namibia was vulnerable to food shortages. There were about 221,000 rural households in the country, of which 84,000 were regarded as poor. Subsistence agriculture sustained some 48 per cent of rural households, and the country and the region as a whole faced such challenges as the severe effects of climate change, water scarcity and land degradation.

83. The Government supported agriculture as one of its strategic sectors. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was mandated to promote, develop, manage and utilize agricultural, water and forestry resources, which involved diversification of agricultural practices and products, job creation, improved competitiveness and development of local, regional and international markets. Related initiatives aimed at improving the regulatory framework to promote food safety standards and ensure food security.

84. To boost agricultural production and enhance national food security, Namibia had promoted agricultural mechanization, the establishment of agrotechnology centres and a competitive financing scheme covering land acquisition and the financing of agricultural inputs, crop insurance and the acquisition of appropriate technologies by farmers. Conservation agriculture training for smallholder farmers had yielded exceptional results.

85. Trade and macroeconomic policies that were biased against agricultural exports from developing

countries were cause for concern. International trade should be promoted. Regional integration was a vehicle for globalization based on a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that promoted sustainable development. The Doha Round should be concluded, with a development-oriented outcome.

86. Namibia called on the international community to promote and facilitate access to the development, acquisition, transfer and diffusion of technologies and corresponding know-how to farmers in developing countries, as well as increased technical and financial assistance to strengthen national innovation capacity through research and development.

87. Global warming and climate change continued to pose a threat to food production systems and to food security. In many developing countries, the agriculture sectors were highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. In that regard, Namibia noted with concern the adverse effects of drought, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss in the developing world, particularly in Africa, caused by climate change. Sustainable land management was needed, including reclamation of dry and degraded land for agricultural production.

88. A large percentage of women were involved in subsistence farming in Namibia, thus contributing enormously to food security and economic development. The gender aspect of agriculture and food security should be mainstreamed in the national and international development agendas.

89. **Mr. Huraimel** (United Arab Emirates) emphasized the need to end hunger once and for all and ensure sufficient food and nutrition for 9 billion people by 2050. That would require the adoption of a comprehensive global strategy to expand safety nets and social protection programmes and to control volatile prices on food staples. The United Arab Emirates worked to promote food security, especially by promoting family farming and its role in providing food. Meeting the world's growing needs required coordinating the efforts of all small farmers. Smallholders must focus on increasing productivity in order to be competitive with the commercial farming industry.

90. Billions of people spent half to three quarters of their income on food. Water scarcity and limited acreage suitable for agriculture accentuated the food security challenge. Given the limited land areas that could be cultivated in the United Arab Emirates, the country had shifted towards aquatic and organic farming and was conducting research to improve soil and agricultural yields. It had partnerships with countries with greater agricultural resources, to carry out projects using those countries' land. It was seeking to establish a national food processing industry that would meet national needs and eventually export to Arab and regional markets, representing a step towards regional food security.

91. **Mr.** Mamadou **Coulibaly** (Burkina Faso) said that the right to food, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was still far from being fulfilled, owing to the consequences of climate change and the current economic situation, in which financial speculation had led to price increases.

92. The Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, provided a strategic basis for coordinated action by all stakeholders and also established a two-track approach for addressing hunger.

93. Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in the Sahel, was, like other developing countries, vulnerable to climate hazards. Physical, technological and socioeconomic factors placed limits on its agricultural development. Family subsistence farming was the dominant agricultural model in Burkina Faso. The number of people working in the agricultural sector had risen from about 8.3 million in 1993 to over 13 million in 2008, with an annual growth rate of 3.09 per cent. Fisheries also contributed to food and nutrition security in the country and had potential for growth.

94. Smallholder farmers were key to economic and social development in Burkina Faso. In the context of the MDGs, measures were in place to increase smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change through use of traditional knowledge. The approach provided opportunities for the full participation of woman farmers, thereby optimizing human resources while preserving the social fabric of local communities and revitalizing local economies.

95. A lack of financial resources in Burkina Faso placed constraints on investments in the agricultural sector. Far-reaching structural reforms were under way and had already resulted in the adoption of a policy that promoted foreign direct investment; price

deregulation for goods other than fuel; the review of the entire legal and regulatory framework for investment; and the strengthening of investors' rights and guarantees.

96. To mobilize additional financial resources for the national economy, the Government had formulated a policy to develop growth and competitiveness zones in towns or urban centres with a specific high-potential focus, such as agriculture, industry and technology, services or mining.

97. While the national agriculture policy had been bearing fruit, the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel could have negative impacts on food security. Burkina Faso had received nearly 60,000 refugees from the subregion. It was crucial for the international community to examine the situation, which threatened the survival of 18 million people.

98. To ensure the development of self-sufficient agriculture and food security, the actors in the agriculture, forestry and herding sectors must be better organized, more entrepreneurial and more productive. Greater coherence in food security and nutrition policy among States was needed.

99. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that as the world's largest donor of international food assistance, the United States strongly supported stand-alone goals on food security and nutrition, as well as on oceans. The post-2015 development agenda represented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty. The United States was committed to formalizing an agenda that focused on broad and lasting priorities and impact.

100. The United States provided $2 billion in emergency agriculture aid each year. The Food for Peace Initiative had sent 1.1 million metric tons of food aid valued at $1.4 billion to 46 countries in 2013. The United States had also disbursed $2.2 billion under the Group of Eight (G-8) L'Aquila Food Security Initiative.

101. The United States was committed to working with all stakeholders to draw in all forms of expertise and resources available. It supported innovative partnerships, such as the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which had attracted over $7 billion in country-specific private investments for African agriculture to support small farming and reduce poverty and hunger. Regardless of the number of partners and stakeholders, country ownership was critical to successful agricultural development. Concrete, sustainable results could be achieved when developing countries took ownership, programmes were designed for their strengths and needs, and new resources were shared in a transparent and collaborative manner.

102. At the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, the United States had joined other countries to endorse the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture for Sustainable Development, which contributed to enhancing food security and nutrition. Together with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, in the context of national food security, those non-binding principles created powerful new tools to guide and facilitate the necessary investment to eliminate hunger and extreme poverty through smart, agriculture-led economic growth.

103. Research showed that good nutrition during the 1,000-day period from a woman's pregnancy through her child's second birthday was critical for saving lives and improving lifelong cognitive and physical development. Feed the Future was a United States programme that in 2013 had aided more than 12.5 million children through nutrition interventions and helped nearly 7 million farmers and food producers through new technologies and management practices.

104. It was anticipated that by 2050, the demand for crops would increase by 14 per cent per decade, while yields would drop owing to climate change, thereby affecting food prices. The United States and other partners had recently launched the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture to accelerate implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices.

105. Secretary of State Kerry had hosted the "Our Ocean" Conference in 2014, which had generated commitments to protect the oceans from overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification valued at more than $1.8 billion. Chile had agreed to host a second such Conference in 2015.

106. **Mr. Tang** Kuancheng (China) said that there had been progress in global agricultural development and that the global food supply relative to demand had eased. However, there had been no major breakthroughs in global food productivity. Global

demand for food security was still strong, and one in ten people were still hungry.

107. The next step was to focus on ensuring an adequate food supply. It was crucial for countries, especially developing countries, to enhance their agricultural infrastructure, increase inputs, overcome bottlenecks in food production and increase resilience. Efforts were needed to increase agricultural production and self-sufficiency. Also, an enabling environment for private investment in agriculture was needed, as was a favourable trade environment for agriculture. The international community must work against trade protectionism in all forms.

108. A positive outcome to the Doha Round and a just, equitable, sustainable and stable international trade order for agricultural products were needed. International financial regulations should be reformed, and speculation in agricultural goods suppressed. Food security, agriculture and nutrition should be incorporated into the post-2015 development framework.

109. As the country with the largest population and food consumption in the world, China made feeding its 1.3 billion people a priority. It had always adhered to the principle of self-sufficiency in food production and continued to solidify the fundamental role of agriculture. With 9 per cent of the world's arable land and 6.5 per cent of its fresh water resources, China fed 20 per cent of the population of the world. It had become a prosperous country, eradicating poverty and eliminating hunger ahead of schedule.

110. Since 2004, food production had increased 10 years in a row. The Government of China was confident that it could sustain food security in the long term based on domestic production. China actively participated in international activities to eradicate poverty and eliminate hunger, including in African countries. It had built dozens of agricultural demonstration centres and sent hundreds of agricultural specialists and technicians to provide assistance in other countries, including training thousands of agricultural personnel abroad.

111. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia aimed to achieve a high-income and high-productivity economy by 2020. Sustainable agriculture development and food security were building blocks of national inclusivity, a central tenet of his Government's policy. Plans to transform the national economy included initiatives to promote agricultural productivity and food security. Those initiatives were in line with the main pillars of the new economic model — food security, wealth creation and inclusiveness. A national agrifood policy for the period 2011-2020 aimed to ensure an adequate food supply for the nation and transform the national agricultural food industry into a competitive and sustainable sector by increasing the income of local farmers and food producers.

112. Measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on agricultural production included using drought-resistant crop varieties, changing the timing of fertilizer application to maintain yield and quality and improving pest, disease and weed management through use of resistant varieties and water and irrigation management.

113. Food security should be a priority in international aid. Malaysia hoped that developed countries would strengthen their commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

114. **Ms. Nguyen** Phuong Nga (Viet Nam) said that 70 per cent of the population of Viet Nam lived in rural areas. While the agricultural sector was shrinking, it still accounted for nearly 20 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Once reliant on food imports, Viet Nam had become one of the world's largest food exporters, providing about one fifth of the world's rice exports.

115. Strong political commitment to agricultural and rural development and overall poverty eradication was indispensable to ensure robust policies that covered the various aspects of agriculture development, food availability, accessibility and resilience. Land allocation to farm households and recognition of land use rights had created incentives for farmers to increase productivity. Investment was also crucial. Rural banks had provided smallholder farmers with more credit to invest in agricultural production and public investment in infrastructure, particularly irrigation, had helped spur growth.

116. Social security schemes and poverty reduction programmes targeting the poorest and most vulnerable households were needed. The root causes of hunger and food insecurity were poverty and deprivation, which in turn limited access to food. Effective distribution was also important.

117. Early warning systems, information-sharing mechanisms, adequate investment in disaster

preparedness and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans were needed to ensure the resilience of the agriculture sector and food security for the population at all times, including during crises.

118. Viet Nam had a plan to restructure the agricultural sector that emphasized the need for the Government to shift from being the primary provider to becoming the facilitator of investments and services undertaken by others, including research, development, technology transfer, regulation of land markets, creation of an enabling environment for agribusiness and provision of information and services that enabled others to manage production and commercial risks.

119. **Mr. Coulibaly** (Mali) said that the economy of Mali was based on agriculture, in which 80 per cent of the able-bodied population was engaged, and which contributed 40 to 45 per cent of GDP. The small family farm, which generally lagged with regard to innovation, was the primary agricultural model. Challenges included land allocation management; shortages of qualified labour in rural areas; poor water management; limited access to credit by agricultural producers; and agricultural producers with inadequate skills.

120. Mali was working to introduce technological progress into agricultural systems, promote mechanization and make product transformation a more significant part of the agricultural sector. The Government aimed to make Mali one of West Africa's largest meat, dairy and freshwater fish producers as well as the region's breadbasket. It also aimed to modernize agriculture in a way that was compatible with environmental preservation, with a commitment on the part of the international community to meet the challenges of climate change.

121. A new law on agriculture and agriculture development policy was designed to achieve food sovereignty and make agriculture the engine of the national economy. The President presided over an agricultural council, made up of members from the public and private sectors and civil society, to track implementation of the policy.

122. The Government of Mali had decided to allocate 15 per cent of the State budget to agriculture in 2015. Establishment of tractor assembly plants, policies to stabilize land tenure and input subsidies were among the measures that had been taken to encourage growth of the agriculture sector.

123. Despite all the measures, food crises persisted, and the number of people who lacked adequate food supply had risen to approximately 1.5 million. Food insecurity was closely tied to poverty, which affected 43.6 per cent of the population and was more prevalent in rural areas. A national food security policy had been adopted in 2003. The Government had also adopted a ten-year food security and nutrition programme to overcome hunger and provide food security nationally by 2017, in a manner that was gender-sensitive and respected social justice.

124. The nutrition situation in the country remained worrisome, with a number of children suffering from acute malnutrition. Nutrition security involved much more than access to sufficient food. It also required access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, quality health care, improved household food security and good nutritional practices.

125. In 2013, the Government of Mali had adopted a national nutrition policy, which established five-year action plans. The first of those plans had been adopted in 2014. Mali was thus endeavouring to ensure the right to adequate nutrition to its entire population.

The meeting rose at 12.55.